GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6741
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2005
NON-TARIFF BARRIERS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought Belgium initiative to settle the issue of non tariff barriers (NTBs) faced by Indian exporters in the European Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these NTBs were being created on supposed grounds of health, sanitary and phytosanitary standards;

(d) if so, whether concerted efforts have been taken to bridge the gap between approvals and actual flow of foreign direct investment from Belgium;

(e) if so, whether Indo-Belgium bilateral trade during 2003-04 stood at $ 5.7 billion against $ 5.37 billion during 2002-03; and

(f) if so, efforts being made to improve the trade between India and Belgium?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) to (d): Issues of Non-Tariff Barriers faced by Indian exports in European Union (EU) on the grounds of health and sanitary/phytosanitary standards were inter-alia taken up during interaction with the delegation led by the Prince Philippe of Belgium, which visited India between 12th and 19th March 2005. During interaction with their Indian counterparts, the Belgian businessmen had shown interest in expanding their economic relations with India in potential sectors. These initiatives would have a positive effect on the flow of foreign direct investment from Belgium.

(e): Yes, Sir.

(f): Efforts to improve trade between India and Belgium include maintaining regular dialogue at Government level for addressing hurdles in bilateral trade, facilitating the Indian industry to carry out among others, market studies, participation in trade fairs, buyer-seller meets etc.